

REMARKS

Summary

Claims 1-19 were pending and all of the claims were rejected in the Office action; Claims 1, 5, 8 and 16-19 have been amended. No new matter has been introduced. Claims 1-19 are pending after entry of this amendment. The Applicants have carefully considered the reasons advanced by the Examiner and respectfully traverse the rejections in view of the amendments and the discussion presented below.

Claim Rejections

35 U.S.C. §102 (b)

Claims 1-19 were rejected, under 35 U.S.C. §102 (b) as being anticipated by Levin et al. (US 6,154,201: "Levin").

Amended Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, an actuator which positions at least one of a ball and a pin with respect to the feeling providing device and changes an operation feeling given to the knob.

This has an advantage of providing more than one feel of operation of the knob based on the function being performed.

Levin does not anticipate or disclose the arrangement of amended Claim 1 as the mechanism for providing changes in operation feeling is mechanical as are changes needed to provide more than one feel; the Applicants respectfully submit that a *prima facie* case of anticipation has not been made.

Levin teaches an electronically controlled actuator that outputs forces to control the shaft, such as bumps, jerks or vibrations (column 7, line 61; column 8, line 10; column 10, line 15). The various output forces are synthesized by a microprocessor or controller (column 14, lines 28-33) and are based on force profiles and computer programs stored in a computer readable medium. This is quite different from mechanically positioning a ball or pin in elastic opposition to a feeling providing device. Levin does not teach any mechanical means of providing different knob feelings.

Claim 5 is independently patentable.

Claim 5 recites, *inter alia*, a manual input device where the feeling providing device is a disc or cylinder which bears plural feeling patterns (rows) and is fixed to a control shaft to be manipulated by the knob; and a ball and/or pin is elastically forced to contact the disc or cylinder.

The Examiner identifies element 52 in Levin as a disc and element 54 as plural feeling patterns. In contrast, Levin identifies 52 as a switch and 54 as output leads (column 8, lines 32-40, *Id.*). The output leads 54 are fixed to the portion of the switch attached to the front panel 12, rather than the shaft 50 as suggested by the Examiner. Furthermore, element 50 is a shaft rather than a pin. A shaft, as in Levin is intended to transmit mechanical power by a rotary motion. In order for the shaft 50 to contact the portion of the switch 54 that is attached to the front panel 12, the operator must provide the force to deflect the shaft from its rest position with respect to its long axis. Operator action is not an integral part of the structure, so the shaft cannot contact the switch in Levin except in response to a force exerted by the operator.

Furthermore, the arrangement of Claim 5 has the disk or cylinder fixed to the control shaft, and the ball and pin elastically forced to contact the disk or cylinder. The control shaft cannot be both fixed to the disk or cylinder and be elastically forced to contact the disk or cylinder. Thus, the control shaft and pin cannot both be the same element 50. Therefore, the reference does not disclose all of the elements of Claim 5. As such, the Examiner has not made out a *prima facie* case of anticipation, which would require that all of the elements and the arrangement thereof be shown in Levin. Analogous arguments can be made for the patentability of Claims 6 and 7.

Claims 2-5 and 8-19 are dependent on Claim 1 and are allowable, without more, as claims dependent on an allowable base claim.

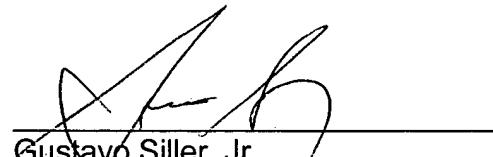
Conclusion

Claims 1- 19 were pending; Claims 1, 5, 8 and 16-19 have been amended. Claims 1-19 are now pending.

For at least the reasons given above, the Applicants respectfully submit that the pending claims are allowable.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned in the event that a telephone interview would expedite consideration of the application.

Respectfully submitted,



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